

Appl. No. 09/960,541
Response dated 1/17/2006
Reply to Office Action of 10/17/2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Rejections of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has rejected claims 67-93 and 136-171 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Pearson, Excel Version 5 for Windows, published in 1993 by Que Corporation (hereinafter Pearson).

Regarding independent claim 67, the Examiner has stated:

“Pearson discloses family data in the form of a group of records related by a common value in Figure 36.1 on page 984 (the common value shown as the “Jan-94” value in the “Period” column). Pearson also discloses in Figure 36.1 the family data as a hierarchical structure defined by a partition (see values in the “Region” column of the figure).”

The actual claim language in the first element of claim 67 reads:

“obtaining family data comprising a group of records related by at least one common value, wherein said family data comprises a subset of a hierarchical structure defined by a partition”.

Applicant maintains that Figure 36.1 on page 984 of Pearson shows more than one family of data, i.e., the family of “Jan-94” and the family of “Feb-94”. These families are not a subset of a partition as Pearson is silent on partitions. This is unlike the family of data shown on page 61 of Applicant’s disclosure, e.g., the “Weiler End Brushes family”, where for example the “at least one common value” shown is the “Manufacture” of “Weiler” and “Category” of “End Brushes” wherein only the subset of products having common values of “Manufacturer” equal to “Weiler” and “Category” equal to “End Brushes” is obtained. (This for example allows Applicants table layouts to be tailored to each family.) In Figure 36.1 ALL data is obtained and displayed. Please see paragraphs [0078], [0103] and [0104], i.e., obtaining family data as claimed in claim 67 involves obtaining a subset of a hierarchical structure defined by a partition, for example only “Daisy Wheel Printers” of paragraph [0104], not the whole data set. Figure 36.1 on page 984 of Pearson shows no subset of a hierarchical structure and all operations occur on the entire data set. (The data in Figure 36.1 is simply the entire data set and a catalog produced by the methods of Pearson would only ever have a one size fits all layout for example).

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Hence the Examiner has respectfully not shown the limitation "subset of a hierarchical structure" to exist in the Pearson reference.

The Examiner further states:

"dynamically applying the pivot value to the family table during a pivot operation to generate and present a preview table in Figure 36.4".

Although the Examiner has paraphrased the language from the actual claim elements, Applicant respectfully maintains and respectfully reiterates that the Examiner's statement is not correct. A pivot table is generated as a result of the steps shown in Figs. 36.9, 36.10, 36.11, 36.12, 36.13 and 36.14 which is captioned "The pivot table resulting from the layout in 36.12". Pearson therefore describes a static update of a display that result from performing multiple steps using a Wizard to perform the pivot. To re-pivot the display the user must perform all of the steps shown as Figs. 36.9, 36.10, 36.11, 36.12, 36.13. This is not a dynamic apply that generates a preview table. Applicant does not perform or claim these steps. Pearson requires many steps before updating its only table which is not a preview table. After each step, the display is not updated, i.e., there is no "dynamically applying" step disclosed in Pearson since there are many steps that must occur before the resulting changes are shown on the display. Therefore, the reference does not teach at least the following element of Applicant's claim 67, namely "dynamically applying said at least one pivot value to said family table during at least one pivot operation, wherein said at least one pivot operation generates a first preview table of said family data wherein said group of records in said first preview table depends on said at least one pivot value".

See Fig. 3 for an embodiment of the preview table 300 that is dynamically updated when pivot 306 is operated for example.

Paragraph [0136] of Applicant's disclosure states:

"the corresponding layouts for the family are automatically generated by the system and the preview display updated in real time, providing instant interactive feedback and allowing tweaking, tuning, and iterative refinement of the table layout of each family, in sharp contrast to the manual approach ..."

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Pearson does not allow for this type of dynamic update but rather requires several other wizard based steps.

The Examiner has also rejected claim 136 stating "Regarding claims 136-171, the claims are directed toward substantially the same subject matter as claims 67-93, and are rejected using the same rationale. Applicant maintains that the same reasoning in the preceding paragraph regarding the lack of "dynamically applying" in the reference applies to independent claim 136.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the Final Rejection be withdrawn as the Examiner has not rejected Applicant's claimed invention using Applicant's limitations. I.e., the Examiner has still not rejected the independent claims with respect to the "subset" limitation and has not shown the Pearson reference to in any way contemplate "subset" for example. As the Examiner has continued the rejection without rejecting the independent claims using at least the limitation "subset", Examiner has respectfully not provided a valid rejection and has continued that same rejection to final.

I.e., the Examiner has stated:

Pearson also discloses in Figure 36.1 the family data as a hierarchical structure defined by a partition (see values in the "Region" column of the figure)."

However, the Examiner has not rejected or shown the "subset" limitation to exist in the cited Reference:

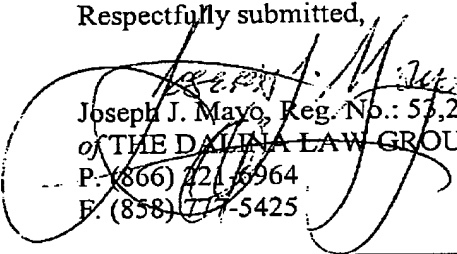
.....family data comprises a subset of a hierarchical structure defined by a partition

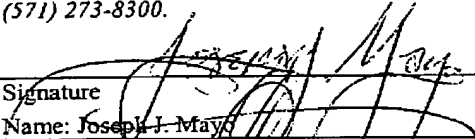
Since claims 68-92 depend on claim 67 and since claims 137-171 depend on claim 136 the dependent claims that have been rejected also comprise elements not found in the reference used in order to reject the independent claims 67 and 136.

Therefore, for at least the reasons stated herein, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner differs in this conclusion, the Examiner is hereby requested to contact Applicant's representative for purposes of a telephone interview at the number listed below before any action (other than an allowance) is initiated.

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Respectfully submitted,


Joseph J. Mayo, Reg. No.: 53,288
of THE DALINA LAW GROUP, P.C.
P: (866) 721-6964
F: (858) 777-5425

<p>Correspondence Info:</p> <p>Customer Number</p> <p>36067</p>	<p>CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION</p> <p><i>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on <u>January 17, 2006</u> to (571) 273-8300.</i></p>
	<p>Signature </p> <p>Name: Joseph J. Mayo</p> <p>Date: January 17, 2006</p>